

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06065 141519Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-01 DODE-00 NEA-10
NASA-01 SS-15 /087 W
-----141605Z 063899 /47

R 141449Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0245
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06065

USEEC

DEPT. PASS AID/AF
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EEC, X, SE
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION AID PLANS FOR DJIBOUTI,
SEYCHELLES AND THE COMOROS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS A-120, (B) BRUSSELS 5668

1. EC COMMISSION CHIEF FOR INDIAN OCEAN, PACIFIC AND
CARIBBEAN AREAS, EMILIANO FOSSATI, RECENTLY LED AN
EC PRE-PROGRAMMING MISSION TO DJIBOUTI. FOSSATI
REPORTS THAT DJIBOUTI AUTHORITIES WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE
LOME CONVENTION AS SOON AS THEY GAIN FULL INDEPENDENCE.
AS A FORMER FRENCH TERRITORY, FOSSATI FORESEES NO
PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPLICATION. HE EXPECTS THE EC/ACP
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06065 141519Z

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL EXPEDITE PROCEDURES IN ORDER
TO GRANT CONVENTION MEMBERSHIP TO DJIBOUTI BY ABOUT
YEAR END.

2. FOSSATI SAYS THE EC HAS EARMARKED ABOUT 3.5 MILLION
UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA, \$3.9 MILLION) FOR EUROPEAN
DEVELOPMENT FUND AID FOR DJIBOUTI. THIS AID WILL FOCUS

ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT IN AN EFFORT TO EXPAND ITS
ROLE AS A REGIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCIAL CENTER. THE
EC WILL ALSO SUPPORT SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.
FOSSATI ADDS THAT THE FRENCH DID A GOOD JOB OF PREPARING
DJIBOUTI POLITICALLY FOR INDEPENDENCE, BUT LITTLE
ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE ECONOMY. THE LACK OF
RESOURCES HANDICAPS EC DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS.

3. TURNING TO THE RECENT COUP IN THE SEYCHELLES,
FOSSATI SAYS THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AFFECT
EC AID ACTIVITIES. IN FACT, THE NEW PRESIDENT, ALBERT
RENE, HELPED PREPARE THE PROPOSED 2.4 MUA INDICATIVE
AID PROGRAM, WHICH A COMMISSION DREW UP DURING A VISIT
TO THE ISLANDS IN APRIL. FOSSATI FORESEES NO PROBLEM
IN CONTINUING WITH THIS PROGRAM. IT EMPHASIZES CON-
STRUCTION OF HOUSING AND SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL INFRA-
STRUCTURE PROJECTS. THE NINE HAVE NOT YET APPROVED
THE PROGRAM, BUT FOSSATI BELIEVES IT WILL BE ADOPTED
WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

4. FOSSATI HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN THE
COMOROS CLOSELY. HE NOTES THAT THE ACUTE FOOD
SHORTAGES (SEE REF. B) AND INADEQUACIES OF THE GOVERN-
MENT HAVE CREATED A VOLATILE POLITICAL CLIMATE. ARAB
DONORS, WHICH PREVIOUSLY WERE GIVING SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT,
HAVE RECENTLY CUT OFF THEIR AID BECAUSE OF DISAGREE-
MENTS OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S MODERNIZATION POLICIES.
AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT FUNDS.
IN ADDITION, THERE ARE MAJOR INEQUITIES IN LAND
HOLDINGS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH WHICH AGGRA-
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06065 141519Z

VATE FEELINGS OF UNREST. FOSSATI SAYS THE EC WILL
DO WHAT IT CAN TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION, BUT
ITS RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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